



St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

(Postal: P.O. Box 95, Mitcham 3132)

Email: Mitcham@cam.org.au

Website: www.stjohnsmitcham.com.au

Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 12th 2017 —Year A

Welcome, Dispin!

Fr Dispin John describes himself as a team player who wants to work with the St John's parish community to bring people closer to God. He is looking forward to spending time in the two schools getting to know teachers and children. Anyone who has been to morning school Mass in his former parish will agree that Fr Dispin is working hard to bring children closer to God, helping them to understand some of the mysteries of our faith.

Fr Dispin moved to St John's after spending just under five years at Holy Spirit, Thornbury East and St Anthony's, Alphington parish as Parish Priest. He had spent just over three years at Epping's St Peter's Parish as assistant parish priest but it's his life before coming to Australia in 2006 that is really interesting.

Born in 1973 in the fishing village of Muttom, on the southern tip of India, Fr Dispin was educated at All Saints' school by the Montfort Brothers. After school he moved to Mumbai (once known as Bombay) to join the seminary and studied philosophy, psychology and theology at St Pius X College.

Dispin left the seminary before completing his studies because he was unsure that becoming a priest was what God wanted him to do. In the next four years he tried his hand at several careers starting with computers.

"I love gadgets and I love working on computers, so I got into hardware and networking. Then I realised it was not that interesting after all," he said. After computers he managed a mobile phone business. Then he and a friend went into the textile business and exported textiles around the world. After this business he bought a chicken farm, fattened up 25,000 chickens every 40 days and sent them off to market. But after four years, still unsure about his future he headed home to Muttom. Despite his business commitments he returned to his study and completed his degree.

The decision to return to Muttom changed his life. It was 10.30am on December 26 2004 and he had ridden his motorbike to a nearby river for a swim. After a while he received a phone call from a friend telling him of the horror that had just struck his town – it was the Tsunami.

His home was destroyed along with most buildings in Muttom. Tragically his aunt and five-year old nephew were among those killed. All that remained of the life he knew was a shirt that his mother found draped across a coconut tree a few days after the Tsunami had hit.

"This day had a huge impact on me and all those who were affected by the Tsunami. There were 78 people from our town killed," he said.

Fr Dispin spent the next year working with the relief team to rebuild the town. It became clear to him during this time that he did want to become a priest. He contacted the Melbourne Archdiocese and arrived in February 2006. He studied at the Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne and spent a formation year in Castlemaine and was ordained in September 2008, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

"If I can achieve one thing it is to try and bring people closer to God. I like to work with people and listen to what they say. I would describe myself as a happy person and I like to share that with others. I think I have a good sense of humour and a great passion for life," Fr Dispin said.

Dispin's mother, brother and other family still live in Muttom, in India so he is looking forward to being welcomed by the many families of St John's.

Parish Information

Normal Weekend Mass Times at St. John's

Saturday Vigil, 6pm, then 8.30am, 9.45am, 11.15am, 5pm

Parish Priest

Fr Dispin John

Visiting Priests

Fr John Van Suylen

Pastoral Associate:

Maree O'Keefe (Tuesday-Friday Sunday am)

Pastoral Care:

Monika Bredhauer—Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry
Kevin Hay—Coordination of Communion to the Sick
Sr Margaret Richmond—Visitation

Parish Office

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Ph: **98731341**

Parish Secretaries:

Martine Giles (Monday-Wednesday & Friday)

Elisa Kelesidis (Tuesday—Friday)

Schools

St John's School, 494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, **9874 1575**

Principal: Mrs Jacqui Marshall

St. James School, 51 Centre Road, Vermont, **9874 1830**

Principal: Mr Andrew Mullaly

RE for Government Schools:

Andrew Puls 0407 352 706

Services: St Vincent de Paul Shop 2/82 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood **9870 9124** - **St Vincent de Paul Furniture Pick-Ups 1800 621 349**

The House of Books (house next door to the Church) **9874 2389** - **St Vincent de Paul Welfare Assistance 1800 305 330**

Scripture Readings for week

Mon: Genesis 4:1-15 25	Mark 8:11-13
Tue Genesis 6:5-8 7:1-5 10	Mark 8:14-21
Wed: Genesis 8:6-13 20-22	Mark 8:22-26
Thur: Genesis 9:1-13	Mark 8:27-33
Fri: Genesis 11:1-9	Mark 8:34-9:1
Sat: Hebrews 11:1-7	Mark 9:2-13
Sun: 7th Sunday in Ord Time	
Leviticus 19:1-2 17-18	
1Corinthians 3:16-23	Matthew 5:38-48

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Muriel Donald, Margaret Parslow, Peter Griffin, Peter Gibbons, Johnny Suares, Valerie Paul, Peter L Box, Feliciano Cruz.**



Weekday Masses this week in our Parish

Monday	Church Closed
Tuesday	12 noon Mass
Wednesday	10am Mass
Thursday	9.15am Mass - SJV
Friday	10am Mass
Saturday	9am Morning Prayer & Communion Service
	9.30am Reconciliation

St. John's Memorial Garden

Plaques for this pastoral project may be ordered at any time for any deceased person who either was a parishioner at St John's or who was buried from St John's Church. The forms are in the Newsstands. **These forms now include the Interment of Ashes at St. John's.** The completed forms can be handed into the Parish Office. **Enquiries: Maureen 9894 3288.**



Travelling Rosary —will be held at the home of Vera Paterson 9876 6517 from Sunday February 12th—Friday February 17th. Enquiries Helen on 9874 7024



February 18 / 19	St. John's 6pm	St. John's 8.30am	St John's 9.45am	St. John's 11.15am	St John's 5pm	St James 9.30am
C'Tator	L Hennessy	C Ryan	K Callinan-Moore	J Kiekebosch	B Jordan	
Lector	L D'Silva	M Perkins	T Henry	D Kennedy	M Stuart	W Fitzpatrick
Eucharist	M Webb	M Coghlan	T Harkin	H McIlroy	M Kristan	B Kenny
	M Pinto	R Smith	T A Foster	C Brindle	M Campbell	T McLaughlin
	Y Martin	G Smith	C Boyd	L Iacobucci	S Partridge	
			A Martonyi			

Laptop	N Pinto	M Truong	M Foster	Kennedy family	A Jordan
Welcome Desk	J David	J Milton	M Easton	M Coghlan	M Kristan
Children's Liturgy	To resume shortly				



Catholic Social Teaching—What Can I Do About it here and now?

Beyond Walls: Bethlehem University in the Holy Land—Monday 20 February 6.30pm

Brother Peter Bray (Vice-Chancellor and CEO, Bethlehem University, in the Holy Land) will address a public gathering on:

Monday 20 February at 6.30pm

**Venue: Elm Street Hall, 4 Elm Street, North Melbourne,
near corner of Curzon Street (Melways ref: 2A H10)**

Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD is the 8th Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, the first university established in Palestine and the only Catholic university in the Holy Land. Brother Peter assumed leadership of Bethlehem University in February 2009 and brings more than 30 years of Catholic education experience as a teacher, consultant, administrator and expert in leadership and educational systems.

Presented by the Uniting Church in Australia Congregation of Mark the Evangelist, North Melbourne, in collaboration with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Inc.

All Welcome



**World Day of Prayer
AUSTRALIA**

**Everyone is welcome to attend the
ecumenical service to celebrate**

**World Day of Prayer
being hosted by St John's Church, Mitcham on**

Friday 3 March 2017

There will be a **morning tea** provided at
10.30am followed by the **service** at **11am**.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL February

Peanut Butter, tinned vegies, spaghetti, savory biscuits, tinned fish or ham. Please leave donations in the tub at the Piety Stall in the Narthex.—Conference Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.
Enquiries Glyn McIntosh 9873 5772

ONLY FOOD ITEMS are to be placed in the boxes behind the Piety Stall counter. All other items should be placed in the St Vincent de Paul Bin at the Basketball courts.

On Sunday 19th February, the Parish will be celebrating 65 years with a special Mass at 11.15am and a parish bbq afterwards. This is also Founders Day.

We will be saying farewell to Fr Mark as a Parish on this day so please keep this very important date free!!

**LAPTOP OPERTORS & COMMENTATORS
WORKSHOP**

Our new sound system has been re-jigged and moved along with the laptop desk to the other side of the church (chapel side) where the system will work more effectively, efficiently and easily. We will soon move to the new tablet playlist option and need to have a workshop to show you all how this will work. The workshop will be **Saturday morning February 25 at 10am** in the **Church** and it would be great if you could all come along to make the transition to the new system easier. Carl, our soundman will be there to answer any questions you may have.

Please contact Maree on 9873 1341.

**Inspiration for the coming week from the
Compassion and Friendship Group**

*When you see something beautiful
in someone, tell them. It may take a
second to say, but for them it could
last a life time.*



Memorabilia needed!!! 1952—2016

St John's Parish will celebrate its 65th year in February 2017. As part of our celebrations, we plan to commemorate school and parish life since 1952 with an exhibition of memories. We are calling for any photographs, vintage school items (from both St John's and St James) sacramental mementos etc. If you have a story of a memorable school or parish event, we'd love to hear it!

Contributions may be dropped at the Parish Office. A box will also be placed in the narthex. Please include name and item details, along with a return address and contact phone number. If you would prefer items to be collected in person, or have any queries / ideas / stories, please contact Janine Sexton on janinecallanan5@gmail.com or call 0408 992 537. We look forward to compiling as many items as possible, to build a fabulous display of our Parish life across the decades.

Social & Other



FEB FEAST

Parish community event on **FRIDAY 24th**
February 2017 at St. John's
 Enjoy foods from Italy, Vietnam, Poland,
 Cook Islands, Malta, Sri Lanka UK, Australia
Time: 6.30 pm start...until the food runs out!!
Tickets: \$25 on sale
this weekend at St John's & St James
Kids \$5 - sausages/drink/icypole



ST JOHN'S SENIORS

Wednesday 15th February Concert / Lunch
(Optional) Time: 10am Cost: \$16am
 Enquiries: Helen 9874 0809.

TRIP TO BRIGHT 26th—29th APRIL

A wonderful trip to Bright is being organized staying at
 the River Bank Motel Bright with wonderful
 sights to see. Cost: \$520 per person
 Single Supplements \$45 per night per person
 total \$135.

Further details can be obtained by
 contacting **Helen 9874 0809**

Mitcham Catholic Solo's Group

I look forward to seeing many happy faces at our first
 meeting for 2017 **Tuesday 14 February, Lyon's Room**
12.45pm approximately. Veronica 9894 4692

OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE ENROLMENT INFORMATION—YR 7 2018

The closing date for **Year 7 2018**
 applications is **Friday 17 February 2017**
 We invite both new families and families
 with daughters at the College to lodge an
 application by this date. Applications are
 available from College Reception or
www.sion.catholic.edu.au



Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12
 Educational Excellence since 1928
 1065 Whitehorse Rd Box Hill Phone: 9890 9097

EMMAUS COLLEGE ENROL NOW YEAR 7

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
 Year 7 2018 - 17th February 2017
 Year 7 2019 - 25th August 2017
INFORMATION SESSION Years 3-6
 Vermont South Campus, Bill Holligan Performing Arts
 Centre Monday 13 February 2017 at 7pm.



There are vacancies on the Parish Buses
 for parishioners who are unable to drive, if
 you are interested and would like to attend
 the **9.45am Mass** please contact the
 parish office on 9873 1341.



We are also seeking additional drivers. This would
 require a commitment of a couple of hours on a Sunday
 morning approximately every six weeks. In accordance
 with Catholic Archdiocesan guidelines a Working with
 Children Check & Police Check are required. For
 assistance in completing these checks please contact
 the parish office on 9873 1341.

St Vincent de Paul Society—Mitcham Conference Report on activities for the half year July—December 2016/17

	<i>Period</i> <i>July—Dec</i>
Number of home visits	113
Adults assisted	180
Children assisted	112
Assistance provided:	
Christmas hampers delivered	80
Bread runs	50
Supermarket vouchers	\$6,470
Purchased food for hampers	\$1,100
Transport	\$950
Whitegoods purchased	\$500
Furniture Items purchased	
Bills paid	\$1,352
Donated food (parish plus Foodbank)	\$5,214
Other (Medical, etc)	\$5,975
Donations received:	
Cash donations received	\$14,132
Whitehorse Community Chest	\$2,500

On behalf of the Mitcham Conference I would like to thank all who
 have supported the conference with food donations and Christmas
 presents and those who gave cash donations. The response to the
 Christmas Gift Appeal was very generous. In addition I would like
 also like thank the House of Books for their generous ongoing
 contributions to the Conference. We could not operate at the level
 which we do without the help of the Parish.

Glyn McIntosh
 Conference President—Cash Donations received

Plaza Cinema Group Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm **The Dresser**

A super, real-life story of a famous
 actor who constantly needs the
 support of his 'dresser' to maintain
 his confidence. Albert Finney
 plays the role of Sir Donald Wolfitt
 with his 'dresser' the great actor
 Tom Courtney. Both stars are superb in this
 fascinating psychological drama of the British stage.
 Full Membership: \$50 for 12 screenings
 month Membership: \$15 Visitors welcome.
 Membership enquiries: Barbara: 9873 3508

